



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

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November 12, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR THE 2013
COMPETITIVE TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM
AVAILABLE TO THE FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
TO FUND VARIOUS TRAIL PROJECTS
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommendations will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to complete the submission of grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the 2013 Competitive Trails Grant Program, available to the Fourth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Peter F. Schabarum Trail Improvements Project, SD4 East Trail Mapping and Signage Project, SD4 West Trail Mapping and Signage Project, and South Coast Botanic Garden Trail Improvements Project are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Adopt a resolution approving the submission of grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the 2013 Competitive Trails Grant Program, available to the Fourth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 for the following: Peter F. Schabarum Trail Improvements Project, in the amount of \$275,000; SD4 East Trail Mapping and Signage Project, in the amount of \$300,000; SD4 West Trail Mapping and Signage Project, in the amount of \$300,000; and South Coast Botanic

Garden Trail Improvements Project, in the amount of \$153,000. The total grant request for all projects is \$1,028,000.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, as agent of the County, to accept the grant funds, execute the agreement, conduct all negotiations, and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, amendments, Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant Agreement, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommendations will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to complete the submission of grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) for the 2013 Competitive Trails Grant Program. The funds are available to the Fourth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (Proposition A). The program provides \$2,000,000 in funding for the acquisition, development, improvement and/or rehabilitation of real property for trails and public access.

The following are the proposed projects:

PETER F. SCHABARUM TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (\$275,000)

The proposed project begins at the Peter F. Schabarum (Schabarum) equestrian stables/arena located at 17250 East Colima Road in Rowland Heights. The scope of work will consist of the installation of approximately 4,000 linear feet of lodge pole fencing to protect and guide trail users; the installation of a retaining wall to prevent erosion and blockage of the Albatross Tunnel which allows underground passage for trail users; and trail enhancements such as picnic tables, water troughs, and landscaping. The estimated total project cost is \$275,000.

SD4 EAST TRAIL MAPPING AND SIGNAGE PROJECT (\$300,000)

The proposed project is located along the Schabarum-Skyline Trail, Schabarum Extension Trail, Rowland Heights Loop Trail, and Rowland Heights Connector Trail. The scope of work will consist of the assessment and mapping of approximately 30 miles of trails to determine the type and location of signage; fabrication and installation of signs; and the preparation of trail, community, and regional maps. The estimated total project cost is \$300,000.

SD4 WEST TRAIL MAPPING AND SIGNAGE PROJECT (\$300,000)

The proposed project is located along the San Gabriel, Rio Hondo, and Los Angeles Rivers. The scope of work will consist of the assessment and mapping of approximately 30 miles of trails to determine the type and location of signage; fabrication and installation of signage; and the preparation of trail, community, and regional maps. The estimated total project cost is \$300,000.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (\$153,000)

The proposed project is at the South Coast Botanic Garden (SCBG) located at 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard in the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The scope of work will consist of the installation of an observation trailhead with an information kiosk, way-finding signage, and rest area with seating. The work will also include the development of an ADA accessibility trail with switchbacks, railings, and paving. In addition, an existing trail will be refurbished to connect the trailhead to a user-created trail.

The refurbishment will include steps and paving. Re-vegetation for erosion control will also be included in the proposed project. The estimated project cost is \$153,000.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), by enhancing safe and accessible recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Los Angeles County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Department is submitting individual grant applications for the 2013 Competitive Trails Grant Program available to the Fourth Supervisorial District. The total grant request for the Department is \$1,028,000.

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

The recommended actions allow the Department to apply for grant funding for the acquisition, development, improvement and/or rehabilitation of real property utilized for trails and public access. Additional operating costs may materialize from the project provisions but will be dependent on approval and award of the grants. The Department will re-evaluate each project and identify any additional costs upon acceptance of grant funds, and address them in its New Facilities request.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 2013 Competitive Trails Grant Program provides \$2,000,000 of competitive grant funding for trails within the Fourth Supervisorial District. The minimum grant request is \$25,000 and the maximum is \$300,000.

The District requires that the grantee submit an adopted resolution by its governing body authorizing the filing of applications at a duly noticed public meeting. Grant applications were due on September 16, 2013; however, draft resolutions were accepted.

Pursuant to Section 14, Proposition A funded projects shall employ at-risk youth from the community in which the particular project is being carried out to the extent feasible. A Youth Employment Plan is included with each grant application.

County Counsel has approved this Board Letter and Resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Schabarum Trail Improvements Project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project, which consists of the installation of approximately 4,000 linear feet of lodge pole fencing, retaining wall, picnic tables, and water troughs, as well as landscaping, is within certain classes of project that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15303 (e) and 15304 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 (b) and 4 (c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves installation of accessory structures and new landscaping.

The proposed SD4 East Trail Mapping and Signage Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of the assessment and mapping of approximately 30 miles of trails to determine the type and location of signage; fabrication and installation of signage; and the preparation of trail, community, and regional maps is within certain classes of project that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15306 and 15311 (a) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 6 and 11 (d) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and construction of on-premise signs.

The proposed SD4 West Trail Mapping and Signage Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of the assessment and mapping of approximately 30 miles of trails to determine the type and location of signage; fabrication and installation of signage; and the preparation of trail, community, and regional maps is within certain classes of project that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15306 and 15311 (a) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 6 and 11 (d) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and construction of on-premise signs.

The proposed SCBG Trail Improvements Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of the installation of an observation trailhead with an information kiosk, way-finding signage, and rest area with seating; development of an ADA accessibility trail with switchbacks, railings, and paving; refurbishment of an existing trail to connect the trailhead to a user-created trail; and re-vegetation for erosion control is within certain classes of project that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15301 and 15303 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1 and 3 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves repair and minor alteration of existing public facilities and installation of accessory structures.

The proposed projects above include no expansion of an existing use, and will not involve the removal of healthy, mature trees. Additionally, the proposed projects are not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed projects' records.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects or services at Schabarum Regional Park, SCBG, and the hiking trails mentioned in the SD4 East and SD4 West Trail Mapping and Signage Projects.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/12/2013

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JW:FP:tm

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**APPROVING THE APPLICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE EXCESS FUNDS FROM
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
FOR FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT EXCESS FUNDING FOR PETER F.
SCHABARUM TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, SD4 EAST TRAIL MAPPING
AND SIGNAGE PROJECT, SD4 WEST TRAIL MAPPING AND SIGNAGE PROJECT
AND SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Los Angeles on November 3, 1992, and on November 5, 1996 enacted Los Angeles County Proposition A, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Tree-Planting, Senior and Youth Recreation, Beach and Wildlife Protection ("Propositions"), which among other uses, provides funds to public agencies and nonprofit organizations in the County for the purpose of acquiring and/or development facilities and open space for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Propositions also created the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) to administer said funds; and

WHEREAS, the District has set forth the necessary procedures governing application for grant funds under the Propositions, and

WHEREAS, the District's procedures require the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to certify, by resolution, the approval of the application before submission of said application(s) to the District; and

WHEREAS, said application contains assurances that the Department must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the Department will enter into an Agreement with the District to provide funds for the development of the following projects: Peter F. Schabarum Trail Improvements Project; SD4 East Trail Mapping and Signage Project; SD4 West Trail Mapping and Signage Project; and South Coast Botanic Garden Trail Improvements Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY:**

1. Approves the filing of an application with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Fourth Supervisorial District Excess Funds for the above projects; and

2. Certifies that the Department understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and

3. Certifies that the Department has, or will have, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project in perpetuity; and

4. Appoints the Director or designee, to conduct all negotiations, and to execute amendments, payment requests and Memorandum of Understanding, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2013, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.

SACHI A. HAMAI, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN F. KRATTL
County Counsel

By Christina A. Salceda
CHRISTINA A. SALCEDA
Principal Deputy County Counsel